

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendments, new dependent claims 21 and 22 will have been amended. Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Further to the arguments contained in the Response filed May 30, 2007, Applicants submit that newly-added dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 15, which Applicants have shown to be allowable (*see*, arguments contained in the Response filed May 30, 2007).

More particularly, the applied prior art does not disclose inter alia “a tip which has a generally elliptical or rectangular cross-section,” as generally recited in independent claims 1 and 15; much less, the entire cross-section of the tip being generally elliptical or rectangular, as recited in new dependent claims 21 and 22.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the patentability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference(s). Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

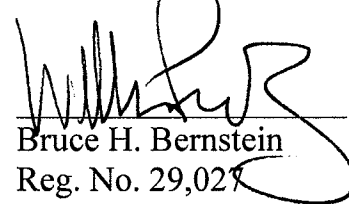
Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33630

July 2, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Respectfully submitted,
Konsei SHINO


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027